

Testimony in SUPPORT of Bill No. 5438

Thank you for this opportunity to speak, my name is Chantel Lowe and I am a BSW candidate for May of 2014 and a Social Work intern. I am writing to you in support of Bill No. 5438 An Act Concerning The Rights and Responsibilities of Landlords And Tenants.

Bedbug infestations are a social problem. This is due to the fact that bedbugs are prominent in low-income urban neighborhoods due to the close living quarters and the lack of resources to rid the infestation. At my internship, Family Centered Services of CT located in the city of New Haven, I have had many clients who's rental houses or apartments were infested with bedbugs. Living in a residence that is infested with bedbugs is not a sanitary living environment. Many clients, some with children, expressed that their landlords were not taking any measure or the correct measures to rectify the bedbug infestation. The majority of my clients do not have the financial means or support for another form of housing nor do they have the financial means for an exterminator. Some might say that it's solely the tenants responsibility if a bedbug infestation occurs. However, these tenants are renting from landlords and do not own the property.

I am in support of Bill No. 5438 An Act Concerning The Rights and Responsibilities of Landlords and Tenants Regarding The Infestation Of Bedbugs. I am asking you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Thank you for your time,

Chantel Lowe